

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. HA-1869

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Terminal Ballistics Laboratory

and/or common Building 309

2. Location

street & number Longs Corner Road ___ not for publication

city, town Aberdeen ___ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Harford

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name U.S. Army Aberdeen Proving Ground Support Activity (STEAP DIC)

street & number Building 305 telephone no.: (410)278-4006

city, town Aberdeen Proving Ground state and zip code Maryland, 21005-5001

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse, Land Records Office fiber

street & number Main Street folio

city, town Bel Air state Maryland, 21014

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. HA-1869

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: one

The Terminal Ballistics Laboratory (Building 309) was constructed in 1947 and is located in the Ballistics Research Laboratory Complex (as of 1992, a part of the Army Research Laboratory). This complex is a secured area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, located between Plumb Point and Spesutie Island. It is a detached laboratory with a concrete foundation and has a load-bearing masonry structural system with all-stretcher brick bond. The structure consists of two stories, twenty-two bays, and a flat roof shape. The overall plan shape for the main building is rectilinear, containing eighty-six windows, four main doors, and three interior stairways. The original type of window found in Building 309 is aluminum multi-paned with a central, awning-type opening.

There are a number of sheds and small buildings attached to the northeast side of the main building in which ballistics testing is conducted. These sheds and outbuildings consist of one story, concrete construction, and have been annexed from 1958 to the present. Some of these buildings are used for storage and blast chamber ballistics testing. The main building's interior has rooms that function as research laboratories and offices, with similar spatial relationships, tile flooring, and concrete walls. The Terminal Ballistics Laboratory is connected to a similar neighboring building (Building 390) by an enclosed/covered walkway on the second floor of both buildings. The connecting building, Building 390, is an interior ballistics laboratory and was constructed in 1953. The date of the walkway's construction is the mid-1950s, and is constructed of concrete with fixed glass windows on both sides. There is a gazebo outbuilding located below the concrete walkway.

Since its construction, Building 309 has had many interior alterations for technical and ventilation purposes. Fluorescent lights, air conditioning units, and partitions have been installed. There has been some deterioration among the eighty-six windows, resulting from installed air conditioning units, exposure, and weathering. The Art Moderne Style (1920-1940) is evident throughout the building's exterior. However, it is most profound on the front doorway entrance of the southwest facade. This doorway has a horizontal emphasis due to rows of decorative brickwork and the flat, metallic overhang above the awning. This horizontal motif is repeated throughout the building's exterior facades with decorative brickwork surrounding the windows as well.

8. Significance

Survey No. HA-1869

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☒ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Constructed in 1947, the Terminal Ballistics Laboratory (Building 309) has been an important constituent of the Ballistics Research Laboratory (BRL) Complex. The facility (now a part of the Army Research Laboratory Complex) is located among other research and administration buildings in a restricted area at Aberdeen Proving Ground. During the Cold War Era (1946-1989), the Terminal Ballistics Laboratory was associated with various military research projects and served as one of the primary research facilities for BRL. Essentially, the activities performed at the Laboratory became crucial for the emergence of technological advances, not only for the Army, but for all branches of the U.S. military.

Research conducted at the Terminal Ballistics Laboratory from the 1940's through the 1980's came to represent the U.S. military emphasis on gaining technological superiority over the Soviet Union during the escalating arms race indigenous of the Cold War. Testing performed at the facility enabled researchers to understand the mechanical damaging mechanisms that produce the terminal effects of conventional and special weapons. This includes theoretical and experimental studies of kinetic energy and fragment penetrators, armor protection against penetrators, laser damage effects on thermal and mechanical loads, and structural response of military targets.

The design and use of the Terminal Ballistics Laboratory reflect its direct association with ballistics research and development activities that were crucial to the overall ordnance mission of Aberdeen Proving Ground and to the specific responsibility of BRL. The facility design of the Laboratory itself has exceptional significance as it conforms accommodations for its unique activities. For example, test chambers were constructed towards the rear of the laboratory for the specific function of using high-speed photography to capture ballistic testing. Overall, the Terminal Ballistics Laboratory and the BRL organization made significant contributions to the U.S. military during the Cold War with its advanced understanding of the complex processes of ballistics and active participation with cutting-edge technology.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. HA-1869

- 1) Ballisticians in War and Peace. A History of the United States Army Ballistics Research Laboratory. Volume 2. 1957-1976 and Volume 3. 1977-1992
- 2) Haufer, George. Interview 07/27/98

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Spesutie, Maryland

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

39° 28" 28.5 North Latitude

76° 6" 33.3 West Longitude

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sameena S. Nooruddin, Cultural Resource Associate - Renee Sciuto, Cultural
Environmental Conservation and Restoration Resource Assistant
organization Division, STEAP-SH-ER date 08/19/98

street & number Aberdeen Proving Ground telephone (410) 278-2363

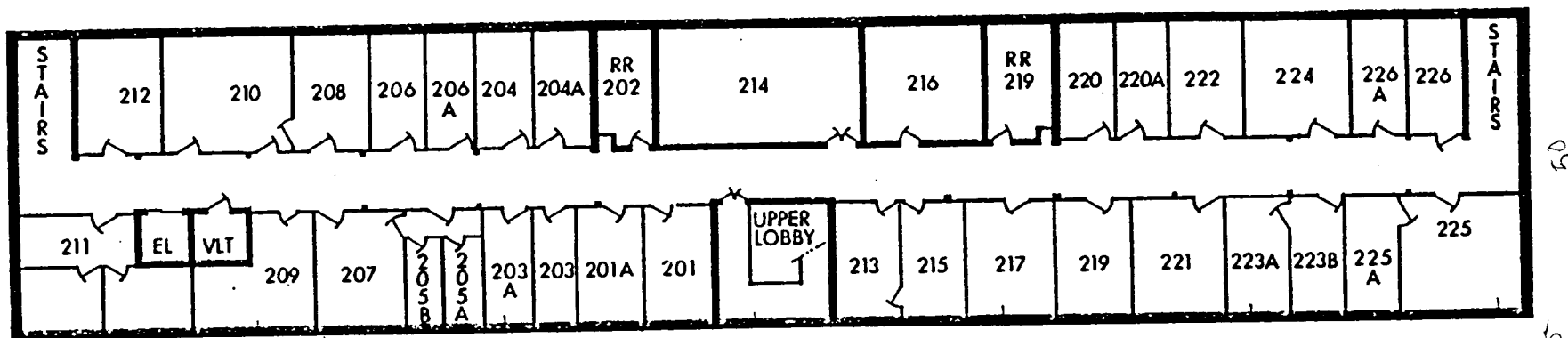
city or town Aberdeen state Maryland 21005-5001

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHOD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600



PARTITIONS CHANGED	12 JAN 77
SCALE: 20 30 40 FEET	
DRAFTSMAN	DATE
R. L. GROSS	22-NOV-76

SECOND
FLOOR PLAN
BLDG 309

HA-1869

USABRL
APG-AA, MD

ENGINEERING SVCS BP

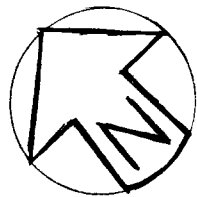
B 2217 043 18

SHEET 3 OF 3



National Brand

42-182 1106-PETS
MADE IN U.S.A.



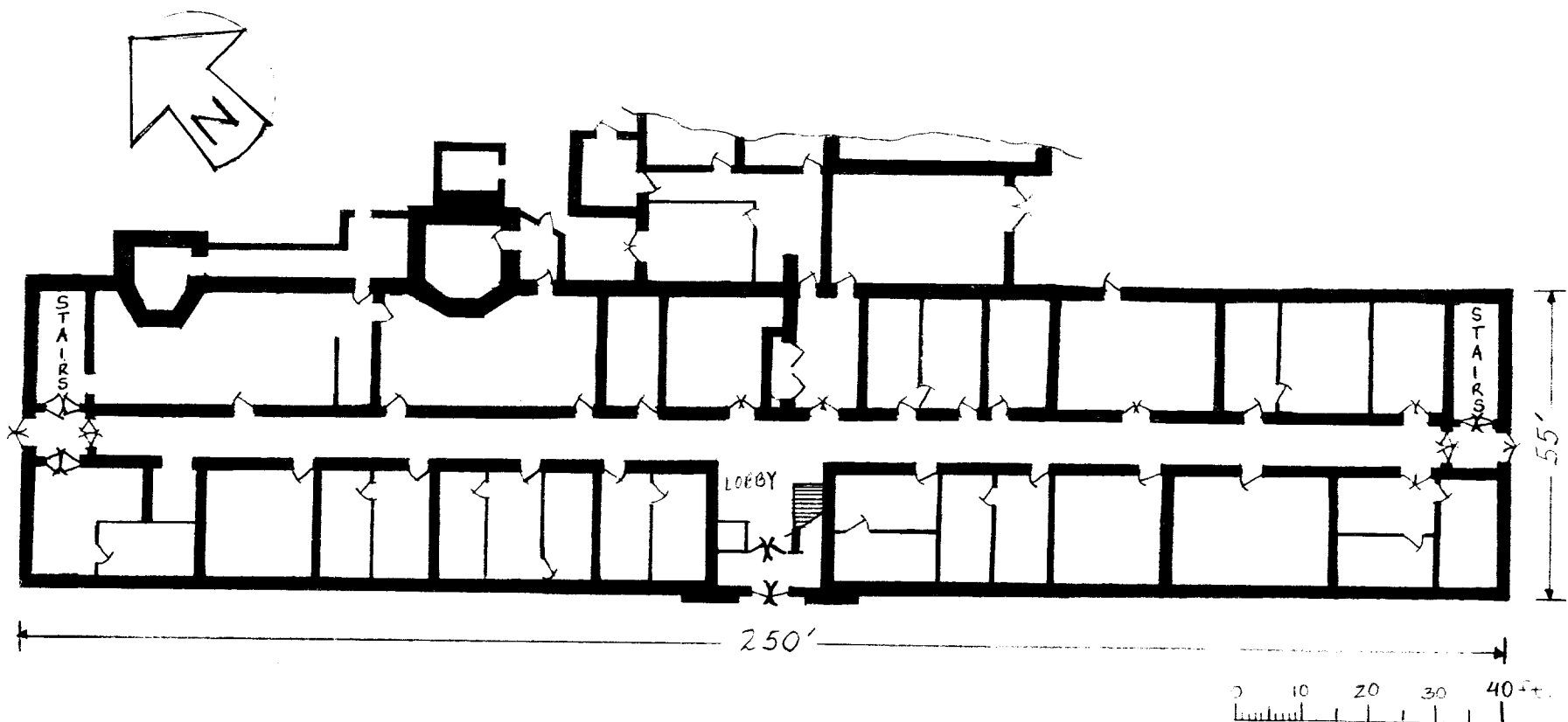
150'

0 10 20 30 40 ft.

TERMINAL BALLISTICS
LABORATORY
BUILDING 309

ABERDEEN, MARYLAND
HARFORD COUNTY
RENEE SCIUTO
1998

FIRST (REAR)
FLOORPLAN
HA-1269



TERMINAL BALLISTICS
LABORATORY

BUILDING 301

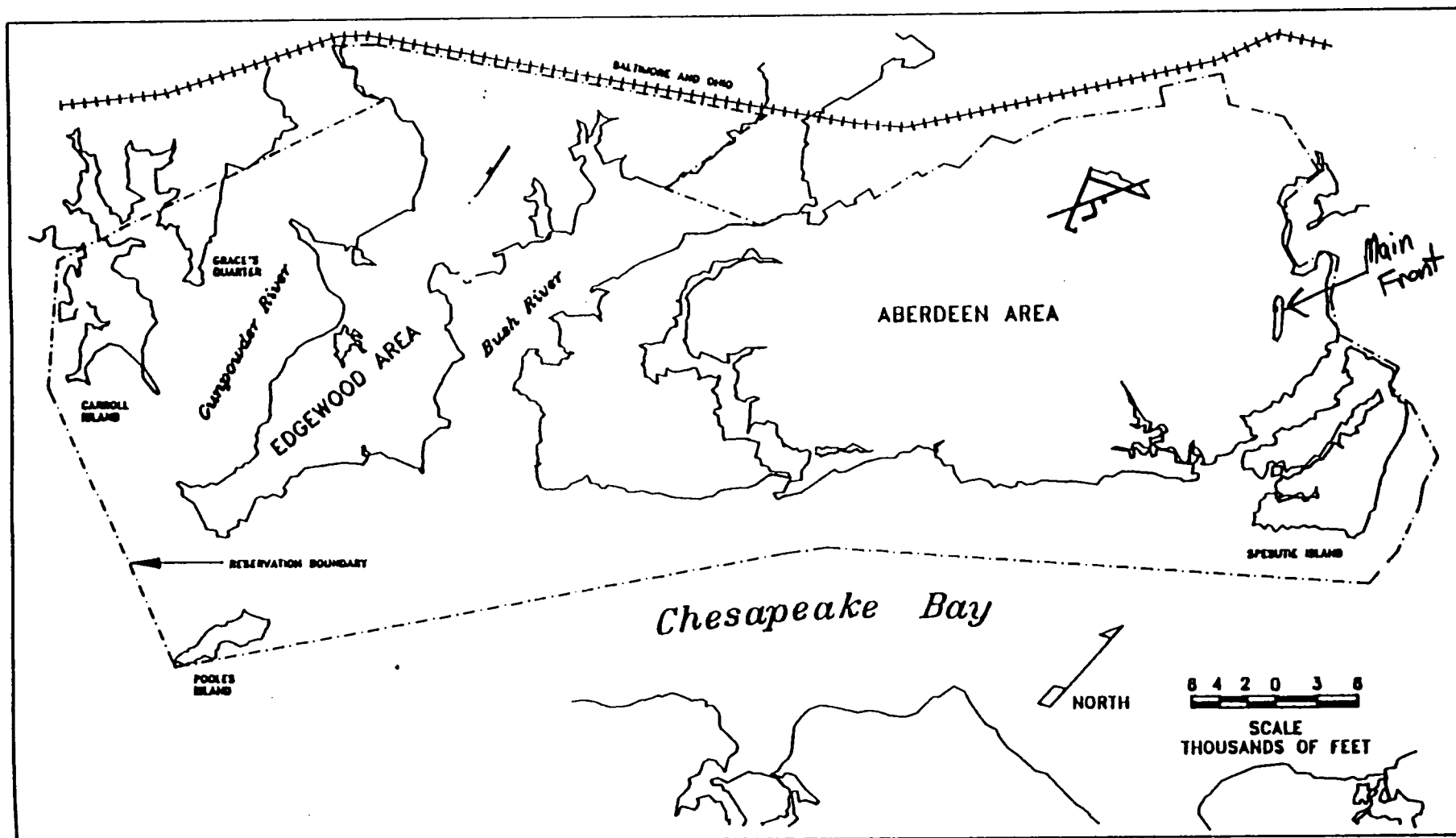
ABERDEEN, MARYLAND
HARFORD COUNTY

RENEE SCIUTO
1992

FIRST (FRONT,
FLOORPLAN

HA-1869

HA-1869



ARMY

FY 1996 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT DATA

2. DATE

27 June 1997

3. INSTALLATION AND LOCATION

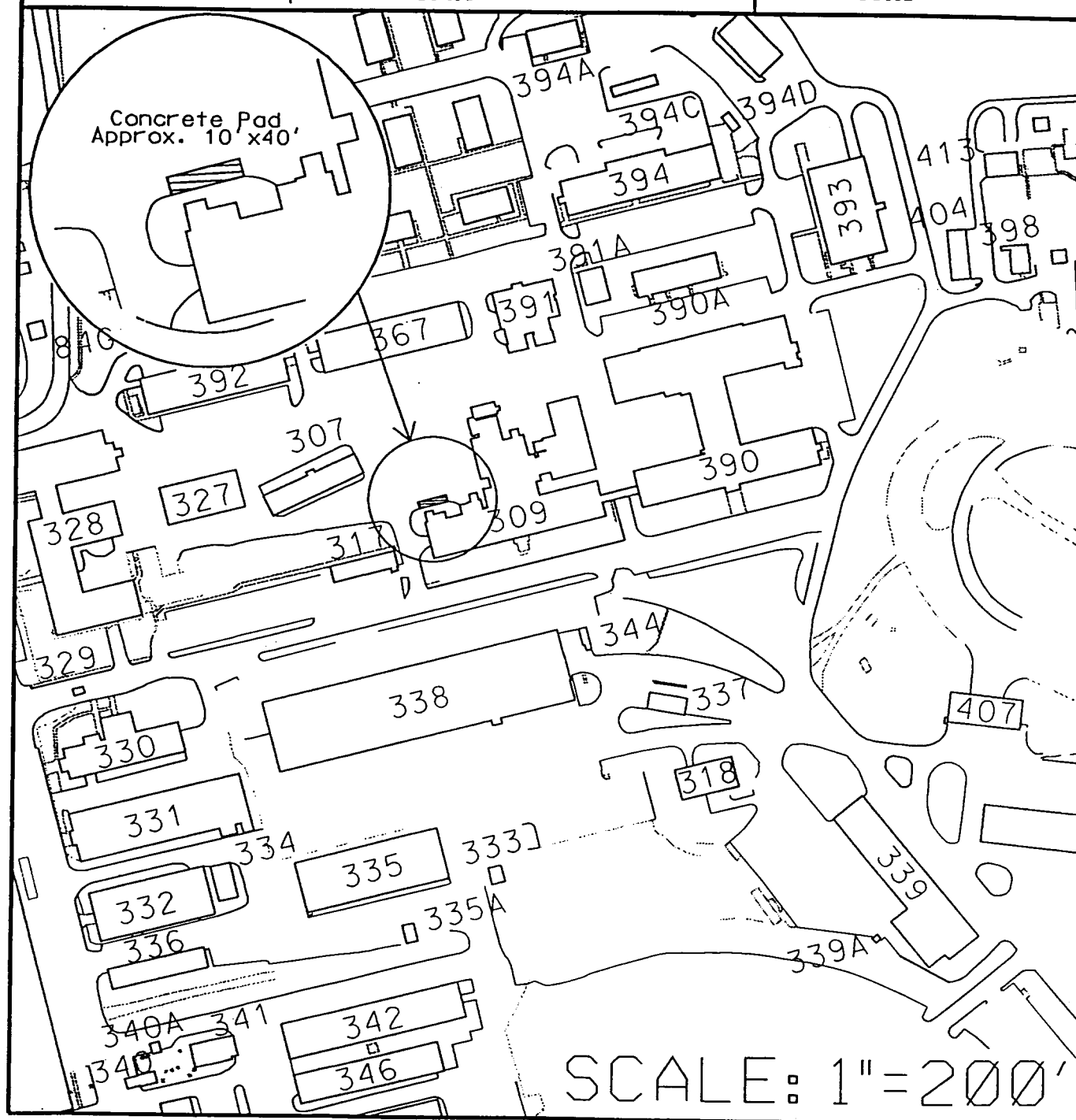
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen Area, Building 309

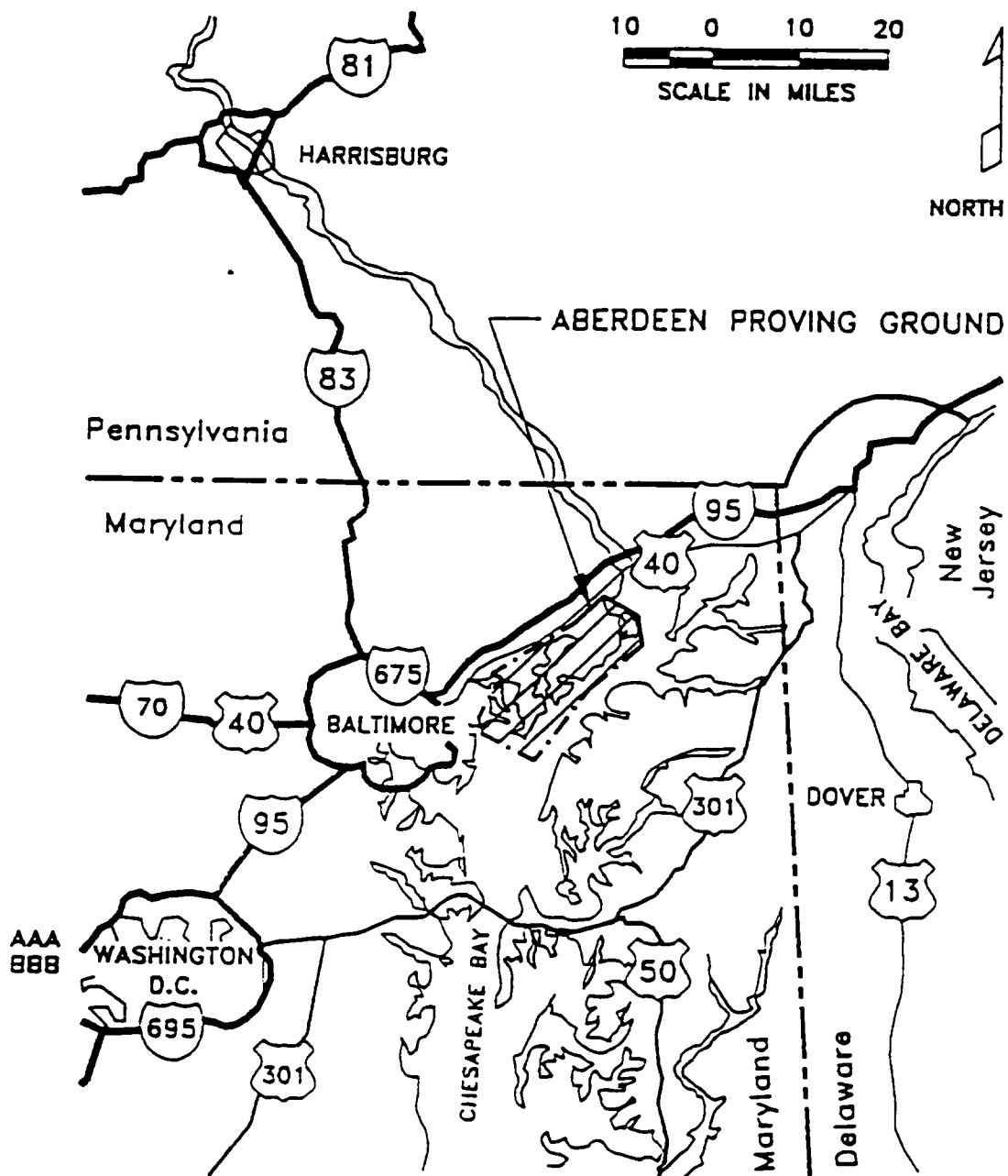
4. PROJECT TITLE

10'x40' concrete pad installation

5. PROJECT NUMBER

0011B





ABN18







- Terminal Ballistics Laboratory H-1519
- Hartford, Maryland
- Sameena Nooruddin
- 07/27/98
- 1/2001 - Aberdeen Proving Ground
- Back Attachment - NW

100-100000-1000



- Terminal Bellistics Laboratory H1-1749
- 431 2nd Maryland
- Sonora Neorubin
- 07/27/92
- Relative - Al. de. fion. h. d
- 1st, NW-E. 1st

• 1st, NW-E. 1st











Terminal But. 400 ft. from shore

Harbor, 100 ft. from shore

Harbor, 100 ft. from shore

Harbor, 100 ft. from shore

Harbor, 100 ft. from shore

Harbor, 100 ft. from shore

Harbor, 100 ft. from shore



Terminal Ballistics Laboratory #1 80

Harford, Maryland

Samoa No. 100

07 27, '98

Location - North of the 100

100 - 100

100 - 100



Ten 1st of Political Laboratory

Hg 1.50

• 1st of March

• San Jose Nov. 1st

• 07/27/70

• 1st of March 1st

• 1st of March 1st

1st of March 1st